

Wanderers Saunter To First League Double And Century Of Goals

BY 'NOVA'

Wycombe Wanderers 4, Clapton 1

WYCOMBE WANDERERS gained their first double of the season and scored their 100th goal in beating bottom-of-the-table Clapton in a dull and lifeless game at Loakes Park on Saturday.

Although this was the Wanderers' first league win at home since January 4, there was again little to enthuse over, bar centre-forward Peter Lowen's second successive hat-trick, hoisting his tally of goals to 18 in only 13 matches, the exciting form of Hodges whenever he was brought out of isolation on the left flank, an all-action performance at inside-forward from Brian French, and a competent display by Bunting.

As for the rest, it was pretty poor fare. Young and inexperienced Clapton, with only one win and six points to their credit after 30 games, allowed Wycombe to adopt a casual and slap-happy attitude which on this occasion brought reward but against more able opponents would have resulted in defeat.

THE CENTURY

Yet Wycombe started in splendid fashion, forcing four corners in as many minutes before Hodges felled goalkeeper Castle with a piledriver of a shot. Then an intelligent right-wing move between French and Worley's adequate replacement Mick Page, ended with Lowen casually prodding home a goal—the team's 100th of the season.

Within five minutes Lowen added another with a glorious header from a finely chipped pass from Beck, and Clapton looked set for the slaughter. But it never came, not because of Clapton's sterling defensive work, but because of the fiddling approach the Wanderers adopted.

Instead of swinging the ball out to the wings or down the middle the defenders pushed short cross-field passes to one another.

But midway through the half a long centre beat Roystone and centre-forward Hoare neatly directed his header past Bunting into the net. This brought little response from Wycombe until Clapton showed they wanted to make a fight of it by hitting the cross bar and then

forcing Bunting to dive to save a couple of hot shots.

After the interval Wycombe kept the initiative, retaining possession but rarely looking like adding to their score.

When Lowen was fouled about 30 yards out, however, Roystone's accurate ground shot squeezed just inside the post, and five minutes later Lowen completed the scoring with a great shot from way outside the penalty area.

With Beck hobbling on the right-wing, after getting a crack on the knee, and Pullin and Gale unable to become really dominant, the game petered out in a lot of scrappy midfield play.

Wycombe.—C. Bunting; J. Beck, A. Lewis; G. Pullin, P. Roystone, C. Gale; M. Page, T. Horsemann, P. Lowen, B. French, P. Hodges.

Clapton.—R. Castle; D. Cooper, J. Kerr; G. Webber, K. Pope, J. Aldrich; J. Blakeney, F. Russell, P. Hoare, A. Harris, M. Brockwell.